AIDS Control

1519. SHRI VEDPRAKASH P. GOYAL: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) what is the present number of AIDS patients and the pattern of growth during the last three years;

(b) what is the pattern of growth regarding specific segments of society;

(c) what is the policy of Government to control AIDS, considering the high growth rate; and

(d) whether NACO is the nodal agency at the Centre; if so, by which agency the activities are carried out at the State level?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) The total number of AIDS cases reported to the National AIDS Control Organisation up to end January, 2001 is 17,997. The pattern of growth of AIDS cases during the last three years is as follows:—

1998	—	1,597 cases
1999	—	3,225 cases
2000	—	6,756 cases

(b) This information is not available for AIDS cases reported.

(c) In order to prevent and control the spread of HIV/AIDS in India, a comprehensive Programme is currently under implementation throughout the country as a centrally sponsored scheme. The main components consist of:—

- Reducing the spread of HIV in groups at high risk by identification of target populations and providing peer counseling, condom promotion, treatment of sexually transmitted infections.

Preventive intervention for the general population by Information, Education and Communication (IEC) and awareness campaign, provision of voluntary testing and

counseling, safe blood transfusion services and prevention of occupational exposure.

Providing financial assistance for opportunistic infections, home and community based care.

- Strengthening effectiveness and technical, managerial, financial sustainability at National, State and Municipal levels.

.051 Promoting collaboration amongst public, private and voluntary sector.

(d) Yes Sir, NACO is the nodal agency at the center and the State AIDS Control Societies have been established in each State/UT and the three Municipal corporations of Chennai, Mumbai and Ahmedabad for implementation of the programme.

Promoting Ayurveda

†1520. SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are contemplating to formulate any scheme to promote the Indian Systems of Medicines;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the progress made so far in this regard;

(c) whether Government have any specific action plan to enhance the popularity of Ayurvedic medicines; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) and (b) In order to promote the Indian Systems of Medicine & Homoeopathy, the Government in 1995 established an independent Deptt, of ISM&H in the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare. The Department of ISM&H has already implemented schemes for the development and cultivation of medicinal plants, preparation of agro-techniques, upgradation of undergraduate/postgraduate institutions, standardi-

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.